

Najib: My principle is 'support the leader'
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Do not question, it is up to the president says head of Umno in call for party unity and teamwork

ALOR SETAR: Umno president Najib Razak said today his principle in managing Umno was based on "support the current leader" and pointed out that he had been obedient to his leader when he was the deputy president before.

"When I was the deputy, I never questioned (former premier Abdullah Ahmad Badawi) Pak Lah. I asked Pak Lah did he question Tun Mahathir? No.

"Do not question. It is up to the president," said Najib when opening Alor Setar Umno's divisional meeting.

Najib's remarks come in the midst of divisions in the party following his dismissal of deputy president Muhyiddin Yassin from the Cabinet as deputy prime minister.

Muhyiddin had openly raised questions about the controversial government investment arm 1Malaysia Development Bhd, and about a reported RM2.6 billion deposit in a bank account under Najib's name.

Najib suggested that members who wanted to question an issue should do so discreetly, instead of making remarks in the open and placing the party's position in jeopardy.

"Wait until the general election. It's not even the general election yet and they say we will lose," he said in an indirect reference to criticism by former premier Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who has campaigned for Najib's ouster saying Umno faced defeat if Najib remained.

Najib told members: "We need teamwork, just like how Kedah Umno managed to take back the state," he said, in a reference to the party's victory in winning back state power in the 2013 general election from PAS.

"It's also like a football game. As the manager of a football team, what am I supposed to do if one of my players decides to strike at our own goal? That is why if you want to question something, do it with manners," he said.

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